

MISS ERVIN TO FIGHT IT OUT.

WON'T RESIGN FROM THE SCHOOL IN ROWAYTON, CONN.

Declares That She Is Innocent of Writing the Letters—Her Enemies Connected with the Case—She Is Ready to Fight It Out—Says She Is Ready for Them.

Rowayton, Conn., Dec. 26.—The village slander-fever, over the deluge of anonymous letters, a villainous character which have kept things in a turmoil here during the latter part of the past three months, has reached the acute stage. The next step taken will line up the opposing factions presumably in the law courts. As related in THE SUN to-day, Miss Elizabeth A. Ervin, the first assistant teacher in the public schools here, who has been accused of being the writer of the infamous letters, is acting under legal advice and is waiting for her accusers to take the action which for some time they have been threatening to take. On the other hand, the lawyer of John McClellan, the principal of the school, who, with his wife, has been accused of being the writer of the infamous letters, is acting under legal advice and is waiting for her accusers to take the action which for some time they have been threatening to take. On the other hand, the lawyer of John McClellan, the principal of the school, who, with his wife, has been accused of being the writer of the infamous letters, is acting under legal advice and is waiting for her accusers to take the action which for some time they have been threatening to take.

Mr. McClellan's lawyer is George H. Vosburgh of South Norwalk. He declined yesterday to say who course it was that Miss Ervin must take and he was careful not to say that the legal action referred would be against her. What he did say was that in the event of Miss Ervin's failure to take the particular step in question, "the person who wrote the anonymous letters would be prosecuted."

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pick up the letter there was nobody in sight to see her do it unless it was one of the boys at a distance up the street. In other words, so far as is known in the village here, there is no witness to corroborate Mrs. McClellan in her story of the finding of the letter. This is regarded as highly unfortunate for the reason that Mrs. McClellan and her husband have been the most active in directing attention to the circumstances which apparently connected Miss Ervin with the writing of the letters. With Mrs. McClellan's unsupported word pitted against the unsupported word of Miss Ervin, the fact is that the matter is still more acutely narrow the question of veracity.

The circumstantial evidence against Miss Ervin consists of alleged similarity between her handwriting and that of the anonymous letters, the reports of the slanders who have dogged the school and the fact that the paper on which the anonymous letters were written is paper that was used in the school, although, to be sure, this school paper was accessible to numbers of persons, even, presumably, to the pupils themselves.

In the event that no legal action is taken in the meantime, Miss Ervin on Monday morning next will report for duty at the school at the usual hour, and she will hold her schoolroom keys and she will hold herself in readiness at all times to resume her duties.

Mr. Beers, while here in town to-day, investigated a rumor that as long ago as last August anonymous letters were received in town, and found it to be a groundless rumor. He said that he had seen several anonymous postal cards of a disreputable character were sent to people in the village and an anonymous letter filled with obscenity was sent to a married woman here. None of these had anything to do with the school and seemed to be merely isolated pornographic outbreaks of the same sort.

In the last outbreak fourteen letters in all were sent, addressed to eight different persons. The letter found under such singular circumstances by Mrs. McClellan only one anonymous letter has passed through the school since the outbreak. The statement that it was the last of its kind, the kind signed "A Friend of Miss Ervin."

REPEAT BATTLE OF TRENTON. Sham Hessians Conquered on Historic Ground of Washington's Great Victory.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 26.—The 125th anniversary of the Battle of Trenton was celebrated to-day by a sham battle, depicting as accurately as might be the stirring scenes when Washington surprised the Hessians the morning after Christmas in 1776.

The first business in order was to portray the capture of Col. Red Bank and the Hessians by the Continental army under Gen. Washington. Gen. Cooper, commanding the Second Brigade of the National Guard, deployed nearly one thousand men along the river, while the Second Regiment, representing the Hessians, were gathered in the vicinity of Trenton Battle Monument under command of Col. Gillmore.

A signal given from the top of the monument the advance of the Continentals began. A rattling volley from the old Springfield indicated the opening of the fight, this attack being made at two points. The Hessian outposts having retreated, light artillery was brought up, a gallop and deploy into a commanding position near the battle monument. Then the engagement began in earnest and the booming of the guns and the clashing of the bayonets of rifles as the make-believe Hessians were gradually driven back over the same streets as the real Hessians 125 years ago.

\$4,000,000 REAL ESTATE DEAL.

PROPERTY ADJOINING SIEGEL COOPER STORE INVOLVED.

Electrical Exchange Building and the Old Marshall O. Roberts Property Also Included in Transaction—Heldridge & Ward and Henry Corn the Dealers.

The biggest trade in New York really effected in several years was put through yesterday by the brokerage firm of Heldridge & Ward, the junior member of which, Francis E. Ward, is the President-elect of the Real Estate Board of Brokers. The firm sold two new business buildings for the builder, Henry Corn, who took in part payment antiquated properties, one in Broadway and the other in Washington street, the four parcels together being valued in the exchange at \$4,000,000.

To Hoffman Bros. Mr. Corn sold the eleven-story fireproof store and loft building in Eighteenth and Nineteenth streets, 300 feet west of Fifth avenue and adjoining the Siegel-Cooper store. The site fronts 75 feet on the former street and 90 feet on the latter, and comprises six and two-fifths lots. The building is to be known as the Cluett Building, the store and first floor having been rented for a long term by Cluett, Peabody & Co. The rest of the building is to be a ten-story office building.

The lofts contain the largest floor space of any in the city, a feature which has materially assisted in finding tenants for them in advance of the completion of the building. The building is to be known as the Cluett Building, the store and first floor having been rented for a long term by Cluett, Peabody & Co. The rest of the building is to be a ten-story office building.

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SENATOR FRANCIS SELECTED. For President of the New Jersey Senate—McArthur Leader on the Floor.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 26.—Charles A. Francis of Monmouth county was agreed upon as the next President of the Senate at a caucus of the Republican majority held here to-night. Senator Thomas M. McCarter of Essex was made chairman of the caucus, a position carrying with it the leadership of the majority on the floor of the Senate.

Other officers selected were: Secretary, Walter E. Edge, Atlantic; Assistant Secretary, Howard Tyler, Cumberland; Journal Clerk, Robert B. Rustard, Passaic; a Steering Committee consisting of Senators Reed, Strong and Johnson was appointed to distribute the minor places.

TIPSTER AHEAD OF RAIDERS. But Only Saved His Policy Patrons Once—Three Raids and Four Prisoners.

Supt. Boardman and detectives of the Anti-Police Society made three raids on alleged policy shops of the lower East Side last night, arresting four men. The places raided were at 306 East Houston street, at Livingston street and 26 Chrystie street. At the Chrystie street place no prisoners were taken and Capt. Walsh of the Edridge street station later arrested William Hing, who had been arrested according to Boardman, was the tipster who got to the Chrystie street place ahead of the raiders.

MARQUIS'S MARRIAGE ANNULLED.

French Court Grants Request of His Mother Who Objected to the Match.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. PARIS, Dec. 26.—Society is greatly interested in a suit heard to-day, in which the Dowager Marquise de Bernis sought to have annulled the marriage of her son, Marquis de Bernis, lieutenant of cuirassiers, and Mme. Danden de la Batie, who was a widow. The Marquis, according to the French custom, asked his mother to consent to the marriage. She did not at first oppose her son's wishes, but withheld her consent pending inquiries to ascertain Mme. de la Batie's social position. Ultimately she refused to give her consent, whereupon the couple went to Dover and were married.

The Marquis obtained an annulment. The judgment of the court is severely worded, neither the French Civil Code nor family customs allowing for romantic matches. The judge declared that the Marquis de Bernis, in marrying Mme. de la Batie, had acted in violation of the French custom, and that the marriage was null and void.

The judgment is received with favor by society people, especially as a new heritage is involved. Moreover, it is conceded that no self-respecting French woman would seek to enter a family where she knew she would not be welcome.

THE CASTIGLIONE LETTERS.

May Show That the Countess Was Sent to France to Captivate Napoleon III.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. ROME, Dec. 26.—The Countess Castiglione, whose maid, Angelica Vergazola, was arrested at Spezia yesterday and in whose possession was found voluminous private correspondence between the Countess and Napoleon III, King Victor Emmanuel and Cavour, died in Paris in November, 1899. The Countess was the mistress of Napoleon III. It is believed Cavour sent her to France to captivate Napoleon.

The jewels, vase, etc., found by the police at Angelica Vergazola's residence are worth about £40,000. The woman said she had taken these articles because at the time a large amount was due her on account of unpaid wages. In her statement the woman finally broke down and denounced the people who had prompted her to take this course of recouping herself for her money losses.

SIR JOSEPH NOEL PATON DEAD.

Queen Victoria Was a Great Admirer of His Paintings.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 26.—Sir Joseph Noel Paton, the painter, was found dead in bed here to-day. Joseph Noel Paton was born in Dumfriesshire, in 1821 and became a student of the Royal Academy in London at the age of 22. He soon became known through a series of illustrations in outline of Shakespeare's plays and Shelley's poems and by a large cartoon undertaken for the Westminster Review in 1846. "Boasting the Cross" and "Oberon and Titania" followed and added to his fame. The latter picture was bought by the Scottish National Gallery for £750 and was afterward exhibited at the Paris Salon, where it won for the artist an Honorable Mention. Sir Joseph was a prolific painter. He was a member of the Royal Academy and the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colors. He was a great admirer of Queen Victoria and painted her portrait in 1840. He was a great admirer of Queen Victoria and painted her portrait in 1840.

LUNG CHANG TEMPLE IN PEKIN.

An Unprecedented Honor to the Memory of a Chinese Man.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. PEKIN, Dec. 26.—An edict was published to-day providing for a temple in Peking to Li Hung Chang. This is the first instance in the Celestial Empire of bestowing the honor of a temple to the capital on a Chinaman. Hitherto only Manchu have been honored in this manner. A memorial was presented to the Emperor in the name of the Chinese people, asking that a temple be erected to Li Hung Chang in recognition of his services to the country.

CHINA TO STOP PIKING.

River Launches Planned by Europeans to Be Used by Kuangtung Viceroy.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. HONG KONG, Dec. 26.—The viceroy of Canton has accepted the suggestion of the Hong Kong Daily Press and will provide a flotilla of river gunboats manned by Europeans to suppress piracy in Kowloon waters. The viceroy has also agreed to provide a flotilla of river gunboats manned by Europeans to suppress piracy in Kowloon waters. The viceroy has also agreed to provide a flotilla of river gunboats manned by Europeans to suppress piracy in Kowloon waters.

FATAL HIT OVER A POK.

British Officers Fight Two Hours, Have American Rescued and Killed.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. RANGOON, Dec. 26.—A British officer was killed and an American rescued and killed in a fight with a Burmese force. The British officer was killed and an American rescued and killed in a fight with a Burmese force. The British officer was killed and an American rescued and killed in a fight with a Burmese force.

MORRIS AND MARY.

MARRIAGE OF THE YEAR.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The marriage of Morris and Mary was the most successful of the year. The marriage of Morris and Mary was the most successful of the year. The marriage of Morris and Mary was the most successful of the year.

DE WET TAKES BRITISH CAMP.

GEN. KITCHENER "FEARS THE CASUALTIES WERE HEAVY."

Boer Leader Seizes Another Success by Adopting British Plan of Night March—Two Squadrons of Light Horse Sent in Pursuit of the Boers.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 26.—Gen. De Wet has taken revenge for the recent successes of the British in rushing laagers at night, and has captured a British camp in the eastern part of the Orange River Colony by the use of tactics similar to those employed by the British. The scene of the reverse is within one of the areas of the Boers' main resistance, where Gen. De Wet has recently followed the British commanders.

The following brief despatch from Gen. Kitchener tells all that is at present known of the affair. JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 26.—Rundle reports that Col. Firm's camp at Tweefontein was successfully rushed on the night of Dec. 24 by a considerable force of Boers under De Wet. I fear the casualties were heavy. Firm's column consisted of the Thirty-fourth, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-sixth and Fifty-third companies of Imperial Yeomanry, one gun of the Seventy-ninth Battery and one pom-pom. They were guarding the head of the Bloekhoek line from Harrismith to Bethlehem. The First and Second Imperial Light Horse have gone in pursuit of the Boers.

POEM ON ISTHMIAN CANAL.

Sir Edwin Arnold Writes Nature's Comments on the Work.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 27.—The Telegraph this morning prints a poem by Sir Edwin Arnold on the ratification of the Isthmian treaty. He depicts Balboa with "the Spanish steel" in his conquering hand "viewing the Pacific Ocean and thanking the Queen of Heaven for the glorious girdle. Four hundred years pass, and Nature is represented in the same spot, saying: The gift I gave To Nature's hand could not be kept. Spain on her side. Now must the ages sweep To larger legend, though her own was brave. Here on this ridge I do foresee fresh birth. That which is departed I shall bring side by side. The sea shall sever what the hills did divide. Shall link in love. And there was joy on earth. While England and Columbia, quitting fear, Kissed and let in the eager waters there.

DANES PROTEST TO THE KING.

Want Sale of West Indian Islands Submitted to Vote of Inhabitants.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. COPENHAGEN, Dec. 26.—A petition has been presented to the King, the Government and Parliament by a thousand influential persons protesting against the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States without consulting the wishes of the inhabitants, to ascertain which a plebiscite is urged. The signers include politicians of different parties, merchants, bankers, literary men and physicians.

AMERICAN REITS DITTON PARK FOR CORONATION TIME.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The *Toll Mill Gazette* says that Ditton Park, Windsor, which until recently was the home of the late Duchess of Buccleuch, has been let to an American who intends to entertain there the representative of the United States at the coronation next June.

AMERICAN SQUADRON OFF TO PORTO RICO.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

HAVANA, Dec. 26.—A reception was given to-day to the American warship Kearsage, the flagship of Admiral Hargis, this afternoon as a return for the courtesies extended to the American naval officers during their visit here. Subsequently the squadron left for Porto Rico.

TO SUCCEED MAY IRWIN.

The Actress Said to Be Interested in Florence Reed's Future.

May Irwin is still declaring that this is her last season on the stage. She has taken a very friendly interest in Florence Reed, who plays *Simplex Jones* in her company, and it is more than likely that Miss Reed will succeed her in the line of work in which Miss Irwin has made herself so well known. Florence Reed is a daughter of the late Richard Reed, the actor. Miss Reed's father and Miss Irwin were the comedian daughter to succeed her if possible.

FELL TO DEATH FROM BATH BEACH TRAIN.

A Passenger on a Bath Beach Train Last Night Reported to the Police of the Bath Beach station that a man who had been standing on the platform of the third car had fallen off as the train rounded a curve near the Bath Beach station.

The police and trainmen found near that place a man about 60 years old, plainly dressed, whose right arm had been severed by the train. Five of his ribs were cracked and his skull fractured. He was taken to the Norwegian Hospital, where he died about midnight.

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Waltham Watches.

"Put a girdle round about the world."

"The Perfected American Watch," an illustrated book of interesting information about watches, will be sent free upon request.

American Waltham Watch Company, Waltham, Mass.

TWO VERY SMALL TRAVELLERS.

Seven-Year-Old Girl and Her Baby Brother Going Half Round the World.

Seven-year-old Agnes Edelhoff, acting as protector of her little brother, Earl, 4 years old, arrived here yesterday in a sleeper of the New York Central Railroad, having been sent originally from their far-away home in Ashland, Ore., in charge of an agent of the Southern Pacific Railroad, Henry Dengler, a representative of the Southern Pacific here, received the little ones and escorted them to his home in Brooklyn, where his wife took care of them. On the five-day trip from the West they were in charge of the various conductors and porters on the several lines that brought them here.

Agnes said that she was bound for Bremen, where she and Earl will live with their German aunt. The little girl said that her papa disappeared, and that mamma had decided to send her and her little brother to Germany. Agnes said she hoped the separation from her mother would be for a long time.

THIEF CAUGHT IN Y. M. C. A.

Confesses to Embezzling in Cincinnati to See the Lights Here.

Albert Van Horn, 20 years old, was arrested in the Bowery branch of the Y. M. C. A. last night by Central Office detectives as an embezzler from the Ohio Valley Shoe Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. Detective Sergeant Funston, who was in charge at Police Headquarters last night, received from Chief DeLoach of the Cincinnati police a telegram asking that Van Horn be arrested and saying that he would probably be found in some Y. M. C. A. room.

Van Horn admitted his identity, said he had been staying here for three weeks under the name of Frank Johnson and had stolen the money to "see the sights and have a good time."

RUNAWAY BOYS CAPTURED.

Bought Revolvers With Stolen Money and Started for the West.

Harrison Tiffany, the thirteen-year-old son of Charles M. Tiffany, and Bertie Fenwick, the twelve-year-old son of Lawyer F. B. Fenwick, who ran away from their homes in New York City, were arrested after stealing between \$500 and \$600 from a desk in Mr. Tiffany's house, were arrested in New Milford, N. J., yesterday and brought to New York City. They had been in the journey by purchasing revolvers and cartridges. Tiffany had \$226 in cash.

NEW YORK CITY INCORPORATIONS.

ALBANY, Dec. 26.—The Broadway Building Company of New York city, was incorporated to-day to deal in and improve real estate. The capital is \$600,000, and the directors are Robert C. McCormick, Hawkins A. Tucker, Horace B. Ford, George L. Brooks, and Joseph Kelly of New York city.

THE CUSSELLA COLOR COMPANY OF NEW YORK CITY.

The Cussella Color Company of New York city was incorporated to manufacture color tar and other dyes, capital \$250,000. The directors are William J. Cussella, Robert A. Shaw and Charles H. Otis of New York city.

THE NEW YORK CLOTHING TRADE ASSOCIATION.

The New York Clothing Trade Association of Manhattan borough was incorporated to protect the interests of the persons, firms and corporations engaged in the manufacture at wholesale of clothing in New York city and vicinity and to reform abuses and secure freedom from unjust and unlawful exactions. The directors are Marcus M. Marks, Benjamin M. Holzman, William Naudon, Frank E. F. Brown, Marj Golland, Isaac N. Heideberg, Philip W. Wolf, Harry Lippman, Charles Fisher, Samuel W. Peck, Harry D. Kahn and Ferdinand.

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